

Independent Executive Branch Ethics Commission

2016 Annual Summary Data Report to the Utah Legislative Management Committee



Independent Executive Branch Ethics Commission

Commission Chair: Lorie Fowlke

Executive Director: Justin J. Atwater

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Purpose of the Report

The Independent Executive Branch Ethics Commission was created legislatively in 2013 by SB 86; later codified in Utah Code Ann. Title 63A, Chapter 14. The Commission's duties include responding to and investigating allegations of unethical conduct by executive branch officials. The Commission has jurisdiction over the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Auditor and State Treasurer. If the Commission concludes that evidence of misconduct exists, their findings will be made public and forwarded to the Legislature for further action. The Commission is comprised of five members; two former state elected officials, one former judge and two citizens.

This Annual Summary Data Report to the Utah Legislative Management Committee was prepared in accordance with Utah Code Annotated Section 63A-14-203(3). The foregoing statute requires the Independent Executive Branch Ethics Commission to prepare an annual summary data report of the Commission's activities, including the following:

1. A general description of the activities of the Commission during the past year;
2. Statistical information regarding ethics complaints filed with the Commission in the past year; and
3. An accounting of the Commission's budget and expenditures

General Description of Activities

The Commission held its annual meeting on November 2, 2016. At that meeting, Lorie Fowlke, Esq. was elected as chair of the Commission for the 2017 Calendar Year.

The 2016 Commission membership is as follows:

Lorie Fowlke, Esq., Chair
Lisa Michele Church, Esq., Vice Chair
Retired Judge Sandra Peuler
Pastor Corey Hodges
Professor Gary Doxy

Statistical Information for Ethical Complaints

During 2016, the number of ethical complaints filed with the commission is as follows:

Complaints Received in 2016			
Number of Complaints Received	Number of Executives in Complaint	Number of Reviews Completed	Number of Complaints Carried into 2017
1	1	0	1

In 2016, the Ethics Commission did not complete its review of any complaints that were recommend for review by the Legislature.

Accounting of Commission's Budget and Expenditures

The Commission's budget is funded annually by appropriation. For FY 2016, the legislative annual appropriation was \$3,000.00. The Commission had non-lapsing carry forward budget from previous years (from a one-time legislative contribution) in the amount of \$49,338.00, resulting in total available funds in the amount of \$52,338.00. Commission expenses for FY 2016 were \$4,528.60, leaving a balance of \$47,809.40.

*Disclaimer. Except in certain limited circumstances specified by statute, all complaints, papers and testimony received or maintained by the Commission, and the record of any confidential hearings conducted by the Commission, are confidential, and cannot be disclosed. The Commission is governed by Utah Code Ann. Title 63A, Chapter 14.